

Superintendent's Report August 15, 2016



Early July: Parking Lot Underground Storage Piping



August 9th: Parking Lot Foundation Takes Shape

Board of Education Calendar of Events:

Negotiations Committee Meeting <i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>	Monday, August 15th	5:30 PM
--	---------------------------------------	----------------

Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting <i>Superintendent's Conference Room</i>	Monday, August 15th	6:15 PM
---	---------------------------------------	----------------

Board Work Session <i>High School Media Center</i>	Monday, August 15th	7:30 PM
--	---------------------------------------	----------------

Board Facilities Tour <i>Meet in the Board Office</i>	Monday, August 29th	6:30 PM
---	---------------------------------------	----------------

Public Board Meeting <i>High School Media Center</i>	Monday, August 29th	7:30 PM
--	---------------------------------------	----------------

Note: Please be reminded that the August meeting is scheduled for Monday the 29th. Also, due to schedule conflicts, there is no meeting scheduled for September.

Board Work Session <i>High School Media Center</i>	Tuesday, October 11th	7:30 PM
--	---	----------------

Public Board Meeting <i>High School Media Center</i>	Monday, October 17th	7:30 PM
--	--	----------------

Correspondence/Attachments

- *June 6, 2016 from Erin Hallion, NB Athletic Trainer, regarding NB's selection as "Safe Sports School Award" honor.*

- *June 9, 2016 from Patrick Fletcher, NJASA President, regarding my service as NJSIAA liason.*
- *June 23, 2016 from Todd Flora, Burlington County ECS, approving 2016/2017 Superintendent's merit goals.*
- *June 30, 2016 from Todd Flora, Burlington County ECS, approving NB's 2016-2019 Comprehensive Equity Plan.*
- *July 14, 2016 from Anne Corwell, Director of DOE Office of Grants Management, regarding NB's grant application.*
- *Superintendent's 2015/2016 Summative Evaluation*

Business and Financial

The parking lot expansion project is in 'full swing'. On Wednesday morning, August 3rd I attended the job meeting with Mr. Kaz, Mr. McKee, NB's engineer, and the contractor. All the updates were quite positive and the target substantial completion date of September 1st was confirmed.

This month's agenda includes the recommendations to approve several 'professional services' contracts. All the contracts are very much 'routine' in nature and all will provide essential services to support our programs. For example, agenda item #7.10 is a resolution to approve Educere Virtual Education Services. This is a service NB has used in the past to better accommodate the homebound instruction program and it's used when NB cannot find teachers to provide the essential services. Educere provides these services. Also, the 'textbook disposition' and the 'library book disposal' resolutions provide for the routine removal of old and used materials. NB is following specific guidelines to dispose of these materials.

Buildings and Grounds

As the East Parking Lot expansion project began, it quickly became the focus of the summer projects. There was so much construction that took place under the parking lot's surface. Frankly, it was a bit overwhelming to watch. Specifically, construction of the "underground water storage piping and tanks" was impressive and intense. However, the contractors managed the project with little incident and today the base of the parking lot is being prepared and all that underground work is no longer visible. Throughout the July and August months, the progress has been steady and the final product will be a tremendous addition to our high school campus.

This project will improve the safety and security of the high school campus. Bus traffic will be separated from the daily traffic of our students, faculty, and parents. Moreover, access to the campus will be better managed as visitors will gain entrance to the campus via the High School West parking only.

I met with the High School Principal, Dr. Lopez, and discussed the plans for the student and faculty parking.



The additional 210 parking spaces will allow each senior to have a parking space, additional handicapped parking at the East and West buildings, and additional visitor parking on campus. Moreover, our faculty and support staff will also have parking spaces assigned in the East and West parking lots. Traffic patterns will improve and morning and afternoon arrival and dismissal will be more efficient.

Negotiations

At this time, I am pleased to report that we have a memorandum of agreement with ratification from the Custodians, Child Study Team and Bus Drivers. On Monday evening, a memorandum of agreement with the secretaries is being presented for approval. We are still working on the distribution with the secretaries but I anticipate that being resolved prior to the start of school.

The negotiations with the teachers did stall in June and both parties filed for impasse. During the first week in August, I met with the association president to review some association matters and during the meeting, we touched on negotiations. After some conversation, we both felt that bringing the two committees together could move the process along. I did meet with the Board committee that first week in August and it appears there is an opportunity to make some progress by bringing the groups together again. Therefore, there is a meeting scheduled for Monday evening, August 15th at 5:30 PM. Hopefully, the committee will have a positive report to share at the meeting later that evening.

Personnel

Once again, there has been some turnover during the summer weeks. This summer, we have continued to stay abreast of the changes and worked diligently to fill positions as they arise. Please note the resolutions in personnel that are being recommended to address these openings.

Superintendent's Evaluation FY 2016: The Superintendent's Evaluation Committee prepared its summary of the Superintendent's Evaluation and presented it to the Superintendent during a committee meeting the evening of August 1st. The committee and the Superintendent carefully reviewed each of the individual evaluations submitted and discussed the summary evaluation of the Board. The evaluation is very positive and demonstrates the satisfaction the Board expresses with the performance of the Superintendent.

Superintendent's Merit Goals 2016: Also discussed at this meeting was the progress made in the final Merit Goal of the Superintendent. This goal included a review of AP data which was received in July. The committee is pleased to report that the Merit Goal was successfully met.

Superintendent's Merit Goals 2017: Please note the attached letter from the Executive County Superintendent regarding his approval of the FY'17 Merit Goals. The committee also reviewed these goals and recommends them for approval.

Programs

Welcome Back Letters: To Parents

Here is the welcome back letter I'll be sending to parents:

August 15, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I trust this letter finds everyone enjoying the final days of summer. Each summer, while students and faculty are away for the summer break, teams of teachers report back to campus to work on updating the curriculum and designing new and innovative instructional strategies for all our programs. This summer, our focus was on a variety of programs including Agriscience, Algebra II, Calculus & AP Calculus, Chemistry, Biology, English Language Arts, Physics & AP Physics 2, and World Languages just to name a few. We are also very excited to announce that NB will be offering a new course in the High School: AP US History I Seminar.

On Tuesday, September 6th, students return to NB for another exciting school year. I am pleased to advise our parents and community members that this fall, our High School campus will have a new look. The East Building parking lot is being expanded and a new school bus access road is being constructed. These much needed improvements will improve traffic patterns and expand parking facilities on the High School campus and will support a much safer traffic pattern on and around campus. The separate bus access road will keep school buses separate from the daily traffic of faculty, students, parents, and visitors. The additional parking spaces will accommodate all our seniors that choose to drive to school and provide much needed visitor parking and handicapped accessible parking to both the High School East and West Buildings. In addition, these renovations will accommodate all future high school additions and renovations being planned. The project is scheduled for substantial completion on September 1st

The Board of Education continues to keep a priority focus on the high school facility needs and is presently developing a final addition/renovation plan to present to the community this fall. Currently, these plans are with the Department of Education awaiting final approval. Depending on how quickly the Board receives final approvals from the Department of Education, the School Board could have a referendum for facility upgrades to the community as early as this winter. As more information regarding the progress on this revised project becomes available, it will be presented on the district's web page, Facebook page, and in newsletters and fliers. The Board of Education will move deliberately and in a timely manner, making sure all our community members are informed of the progress so that an informed vote may be cast at the next referendum.

Finally, please follow me on Twitter @NBCSuper. I enjoy staying connected to the parents, students, faculty, and friends of NB on Twitter. Currently, there are 2,142 followers so please, if you don't have an account, take a moment to get connected and receive updates on all school events and activities. This community continues to grow and flourish and I continue to be inspired by the Northern family. At Northern, our motto is to inspire the desire. By working together, this Board, its administration, faculty, support staff, and community will continue to be successful, and our students will benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James Larrada". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Social Media

I will continue to encourage all Board members to actively follow the NB Twitter sites and Facebook page. Please click on this link to our Facebook page and note the most recent article on our summer parking lot/bus access road expansion project.

www.facebook.com/Northern-Burlington-County-Regional-School-District-726696484130808/

With the start of a new school year, I am going to once again challenge each Board member to be more visible during school events. Come to a home football game; enjoy watching the Field Hockey team and soccer teams compete. Enjoy the musicals and band and choral performances throughout the school year. The visibility of the Board will build better relations with the community. And as I've stated before, it is very important that all Board members be ambassadors of the NB social media sites and encourage our community members to visit them as well. Ask your neighbors and friends if they are visiting the NB Face book page? Do they follow @NBCSuper on Twitter? What do they say about @NBCPride and some of the other NB Twitter accounts?

HIB Updates

Attached please find the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying report for the month of June:

Middle School

- 0 – Incident Investigations
- 0 – Confirmed HIB Reports

High School

- 0 – Incident Investigations
- 0 – Confirmed HIB Reports



Zero Tolerance

Final Thought:

Excellence By Design (ExBD) Update:

I am please to report that the ExBD visiting team will be recommending accreditation for the NB Middle and High School. We have received drafts of the final documents and are reviewing the drafts for accuracy of factual information. Once the final report and 'official' recommendation is processed, we will report this to our Board at a public meeting and communicate this 'point of pride' to our community. For your information, please note that this summer our internal planning committee began its work to implement the actions plans outlined in our ExBD strategies.

The following is the concluding statement from the Visitation committee.

After its visit to the school, and after considering the evidence seen and heard during the visit, the Middle States Visiting Team is charged with making a recommendation to the Middle States Commission(s) regarding the accreditation action the Commission(s) should take.

Based on the evidence presented by the school in its Self-Study Document and supporting documentation, and based on the evidence seen and heard by members of the Team from the school's community of stakeholders, the Team recommends to the Middle States Commission(s) that it take the following accreditation action:

<p><i>The Visiting Team recommends that Accreditation be awarded to the Northern Burlington Regional School District.</i></p>

As I previously indicated, the written report will reflect each of the standards and the

evidence supporting the recommendations of the Validation Team. There was evidence that the school system has an institutionalized planning ethic. In addition to the goals and action plans formally connected to the Excellence By Design: Systems Visit protocol, the district maintains financial, facilities, safety and technology plans, among others. In our interviews with them, it is clear that the superintendent, directors, supervisors, administrators, and principals have created these plans openly, honestly, and collaboratively. District leaders have a unique sense of responsibility for student success. The school has in place the conditions which will allow them to achieve their objectives. The faculty is aware of the Excellence By Design standards, and understanding those standards for each affected area is critical to the success of the plan. The plan for communication among staff, the administration, students and the community will be an important part of the continuing effort. By utilizing the tools you have, your stakeholders can continually be made aware of the plan's status. Our team was pleased that the district leadership has adopted the Middle States Accreditation process as a genuine tool to develop foundational documents and a strategic plan rather than a process for its own sake. We are confident that these documents, the goals, and action plans will survive beyond visit.

At the conclusion of this visit, the validation Team is asked to make an accreditation recommendation to the Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools based on evidence found during our review. Our team has observed, interviewed and documented information that leads us to the following unanimous conclusion:

- 1. The school has defined and appropriate objectives with a clearly defined path to achieving those objectives.*
- 2. The school has established conditions under which they can be achieved and has addressed areas needing improvement.*
- 3. The school is currently working toward achieving the objectives and has made changes to the plans and timelines to reflect realistic benchmarks.*

4. *The school will be able to continue the effort for the foreseeable future by following through with communications, data review and plan adjustment as new priorities appear.*

We will be please to recommend to the Middle States Association that accreditation be awarded to the Northern Burlington School District. We again thank you for your dedication and the warmth and hospitality extended to us during our time here. We came here as professionals with a singular purpose. I have had the privilege of working with outstanding educators who undertook the task of this validation and did so with professionalism and integrity. I thank them for their efforts and dedication. We are thankful to have had the opportunity to be part of your family if even for a short time. Since I have spoken so much about success I would like to leave you with a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson. He defines success as "To laugh often and much, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave this world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition, to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived".